

CLAIMS

1. Process that enables at least one user to access at least one multimedia voice server through a computer communication network (14), particularly an Internet type network;

5 each user being provided with:

- either a telephone connected through a local loop in the switched telephone network to an interface device (20<sub>1</sub>) located in a remote telephone exchange (16<sub>1</sub>) managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken out a subscription;

10 - or a local interface device (30<sub>i</sub>) associated with a telephone handset,

the said process comprising the following steps:

- a connection is set up between the said interface device (20<sub>1</sub>, 30<sub>i</sub>) and the multimedia voice server(s) concerned (V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>), through a service server (27) in the computer communication network,

15 such that data sent by multimedia voice servers representing sounds and/or images pass through the Internet network, and are received by the interface device and transmitted to the user,

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- the interface device is activated in order to set up the said link between this device and the service server, by using:

5       \* either a control device associated with the said local interface device, particularly a key on a keypad of the said interface device,

      \* or a control device associated with the telephone connected to the said remote interface device, for example being a key on the said telephone  
10      keypad,

- a menu is transmitted through the link thus set up between the service server and the said interface device and/or the telephone, presenting options for the related multimedia voice servers to the user,

15       such that the user may receive messages such as the following, for example:

"Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

- the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
20      press 1,

- the multimedia voice server for today's news:  
press 2,

- the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
press 3,

25       etc.",

- options in the distributed menu are selected using the said control device, and

- links are set up with the selected multimedia voice server(s),

30       such that, for example, the user can press key 3 on the keypad of his telephone or his interface device, to receive information about the weather.

2. Process according to claim 1, such that it also comprises a step to:

- display image data from multimedia voice servers using a display screen (32<sub>i</sub>) on the local interface device (30<sub>i</sub>).

3. Process according to either of claims 1 or 2, such that it also comprises a step to:

- personalise structures in the service server menu, particularly using a configuration server,  
such that for example the user can choose a structure like the following:

"1 - Weather",  
"2 - Horoscope",  
"3 - French news",  
"4 - Madonna's new disks".

4. Process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, such that it also comprises steps to:

- program the interface device such that it automatically connects itself to the multimedia voice servers concerned at a given time depending on a pre-determined structure, through the service server, and  
- store data received from the multimedia voice servers in the memory area of the interface device,  
such that, for example, the user can access information that was retrieved and stored during the night, when he gets up in the morning.

5. Process according to claim 1, such that it also comprises a step to:

- share the said link between the interface device in the telephone exchange and the service server, between several subscribers identified by a subscriber code,

6. System by which at least one user can access at least one multimedia voice server ( $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ ,  $V_3$ ,  $V_4$ ) through a computer communication network (14) and particularly an Internet type network;

5 the said system being such that the user is provided with:

- either a telephone ( $26_i$ ) connected through a local loop in the switched telephone network to an interface device ( $20_i$ ) located in a remote telephone  
10 exchange ( $16_i$ ) managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken out a subscription;

- or a local interface device ( $30_i$ ) associated with a telephone handset,

the said system comprising:

15 - a link between the said interface device and the said multimedia voice server(s) concerned, through a service server (27) on the said computer communication network, particularly an Internet type network,

such that the data transmitted by the multimedia  
20 voice servers representing sounds and/or images transit through the Internet network, are received by the interface device and transmitted to the user,

- means for activating the said interface device in order to set up the said link between the said  
25 interface device and the service server; the said activation means comprising:

\* either a control device associated with the said local interface device, particularly a key on a keypad of the said interface device,

30 \* or a control device associated with the telephone connected to the said remote interface device, for example being a key on the said telephone keypad,

the said control device being actuated by the user:

- means of transmitting a menu through the link thus set up between the service server and the said interface device and/or the telephone, presenting  
5 options for the related multimedia voice servers to the user,

such that the user may receive messages such as the following, for example:

10 "Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

- the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
press 1,

- the multimedia voice server for today's news:  
15 press 2,

- the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
press 3,

etc.",

- selection means to select options in the  
20 distributed menu, using the said control device,

- switching means to set up connections with the multimedia voice server(s) thus selected, and

- reception means, particularly a loudspeaker, to receive information from the selected multimedia voice  
25 server,

such that, for example, the user can press key 3 on his telephone keypad or the keypad of his interface device to set up the link with the weather server and receive the corresponding information.

30 7. System according to claim 6 such that the local interface device also comprises:

- a display screen (30<sub>i</sub>) to display image data from multimedia voice servers.

8. System according to either of claims 6 or 7, such that it also comprises:

- personalisation means, particularly a configuration server, to personalize structures in the service server menu,

such that for example the user can choose a structure like the following:

"1 - Weather",  
"2 - Horoscope",  
10 "3 - French news",  
"4 - Madonna's new disks".

9. System according to any one of claims 6 to 8, such that it also comprises:

- means of programming the interface device such that it automatically connects itself to the multimedia voice servers concerned at a given time depending on a pre-determined structure, through the service server, and

- storage means to store data received from the multimedia voice servers in a memory area of the interface device,

such that, for example, the user can access information that was retrieved and stored during the night, when he gets up in the morning.

25 10. System according to claim 6, such that it also comprises:

- addressing means to share the said link between the interface device in the telephone exchange and the service server, between several subscribers identified by a subscriber code,

30 11. Interface device (20<sub>i</sub>, 30<sub>i</sub>) that at least one user can use to access at least one multimedia voice server (V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>) through a service server (27) on

a computer communication network (14), particularly an Internet type network;

the said interface device comprises:

- means to activate this interface device in order  
5 to set up the said link between the said interface device and the said service server; the said activation means comprising a control device, particularly a key on a keypad of the said interface device; the said control device being actuated by the  
10 user, either locally or remotely, using a telephone connected to the interface device, and

- means to receive a menu distributed by the service server; the said menu offering options for related multimedia voice servers to the user.

15 such that, for example, the user receives the following messages:

"Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

- the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
20 type 1,

- the multimedia voice server for today's news:  
press 2,

- the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
press 3,

25 etc.",

12. Interface device according to claim 11, such that it also comprises:

- a display screen (30<sub>i</sub>) to display image data from the multimedia voice servers.

30 13. Interface device according to either claim 11 or 12, such that it also comprises:

- personalisation means, particularly a configuration server control device to personalize structures in the service server menu.

5 such that the user can choose a structure like the following:

- "1 - Weather",
- "2 - Horoscope",
- "3 - French news",
- "4 - Madonna's new disks".

10 14. Device according to either claim 11 or 13, such that it also comprises:

- programming means such that the interface device automatically connects itself at a given moment, according to a predetermined structure, through the  
15 service server to the multimedia voice servers concerned,

- means for storing the data received from the multimedia voice servers in a memory area,  
for example, such that the user can access  
20 information that was retrieved and stored during the night when he gets up in the morning.

15. Device according to any one of claims 11 to 14, such that the means of reception comprise digital/analogue compression and conversion means,  
25 such that the compressed digital information from the server is transformed into a signal that the user can hear.